UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/39(2)/12/Add.1*
12 March 1993

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-ninth session, second part
Geneva, 15 March 1993
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF UNCTAD'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA

Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Addendum

The attached information should be added to that contained in chapter I.

---

* Issued for technical reasons.

GE.93-50879

1. A pilot phase of a Coordinated African Programme of Assistance on Services (CAPAS) was launched in 1992, funded by the Government of France, IDRC of Canada and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Studies of the services sector in Benin, Burundi, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe are being undertaken with the objective of assisting policy-making in this sector and thereby increasing the contribution of services to the development process. The studies are also expected to generate the information needed by these countries for their effective participation in trade negotiations on services. CAPAS builds on earlier preliminary studies in the area of services undertaken in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt and Tunisia, with the support of UNDP, and in Benin, Cape Verde and United Republic of Tanzania with the support of the Government of France.

2. Technical cooperation on the generalized system of preferences (GSP) and other trade laws has contributed to raising awareness among exporters, manufacturers and government officials in Africa of the preferential trading opportunities available to them, particularly in non-traditional semi-manufactures and manufactures. Currently a UNDP-financed national GSP project is undertaking such activities in Zimbabwe. In the period 1986 to 1992, some $1.4 million from UNDP and other sources was used to finance 17 training seminars and 7 advisory missions in Africa. The objective was to improve the administration of GSP and other preferential arrangements, often through the establishment of a GSP focal point to assist exporters in increasing their utilization of the scheme. Special attention was devoted to the interests of the least developed countries of the region.

3. Another component of UNCTAD's transit transport projects (see para.43 of TD/B/39(2)/12) focuses on measures to improve the efficiency of the transit system along the corridors that serve the land-locked developing countries. This has involved assistance to both land-locked countries and their transit neighbours in implementing such measures as the harmonization and streamlining of transit documentation and procedures, the establishment of legal and regulatory regimes to govern transit operations and the improvement of management and operational capabilities in the transit sector. In order to monitor the implementation of agreed measures, there are regular "technical consultative meetings" in which policy-makers, managers, transit operators, banking institutions, insurance companies, export and import firms and other parties concerned participate. It is envisaged that, in the long run, the counterpart subregional institutions will take over the responsibility for providing the required technical assistance to their Governments.